

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 07678 081103Z

14 10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 SS-15 SP-02 PM-03 INR-07

SCA-01 VO-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 IO-10 /055 W

----- 087288

O R 080915Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5756

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7678

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF CH HK US

SUBJECT: TUAN KO-WEN AND OTHER EX-"KMT WAR CRIMINALS" IN HONG KONG

REF: (A) HONG KONG 7544 AND (B) HONG KONG 5220

1. CONGEN HAS ADVISED IRC/HK REP ALLEN OF IRC AGREEMENT TO RESETTLE TUAN KO-WEN. HOWEVER, ALLEN HAS NOT YET RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM HIS HOME OFFICE CONCERNING TRAVEL AND ARRANGEMENTS IN US FOR TUAN. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ASK IRC/NEW YORK TO CABLE INSTRUCTIONS TO ALLEN.

2. CONGEN WILL INFORM ADDRESSEE POSTS WHEN FIRM TRAVEL PLANS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR TUAN HAVE BEEN MADE.

3. CONGEN EXPECTS TUAN DEPARTURE WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED IN LOCAL PRESS. PROVIDED DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION, IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES, CONGEN PLANS TO STATE THAT TUAN DEPARTED (OR WILL DEPART) FOR THE UNITES STATES ON (GIVEN DATE) AFTER BEING GRANTED ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES ON THE BASIS OF HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS.

3. ON JULY 7, AT THE REQUEST OF CHOU YANG-HAO AND TSAI SHENG'SAN, AMCIT R. RANDLE EDWARDS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW INQUIRED ABOUT US ENTRY FOR THESE TWO EX-"KMT WAR CRIMINALS" NOW IN HONG KONG. (ED-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 HONG K 07678 081103Z

WARDS EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD TALKED TO CHOU AND TSAI IN COURSE

OF EFFORT TO LEARN ABOUT THE COMMUNIST LEGAL SYSTEM.) WE HAD EARLIER HEARD OF CHOU'S INTEREST IN TRAVEL TO THE US (REF-B). ACCORDING TO EDWARDS, CHOU'S DAUGHTER IN CALIFORNIA HAS STARTED PROCESSING OF AN APPLICATION ON HER FATHER'S BEHALF. EDWARDS IS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT CHOU CHILDREN IN THE US ARE NOT YET CITIZENS BUT HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING POSSIBLE APPLICATION BY DAUGHTER BEFORE EDWARDS DEPARTS FOR TAIWAN ON JULY 12. AFTER TALKING WITH CHOU, EDWARDS INDICATED THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO INTEREST COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY OR HARVARD (WHERE HE PREVIOUSLY TAUGHT) IN SPONSORING CHOU, WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS OF CHINESE POLITICS DURING THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD, ETC.

5. TSAI SHENG-SAN HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MORE LOQUACIOUS OF THE GROUP AND IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT HE HAS MET WITH EDWARDS, WHO NOTED THAT SOME OF THE OLD SOLDIERS SEEMED SUSPICIOUS OF TSAI'S ALLEGED RAPID ADVANCEMENT UP THE NATIONALIST MILITARY RANKS TO THE STATUS OF MAJOR-GENERAL BY AGE 23. EDWARDS SEEMED TO SHARE IN THEIR DOUBTS ABOUT TSAI AND DID NOT GO BEYOND INDICATING THAT HIS INQUIRY WAS AT TSAI'S REQUEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM, WAR CRIMES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK07678
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750235-0105
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750778/aaaacrnh.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HONG KONG 7544, 75 AND HONG KONG 5220
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TUAN KO-WEN AND OTHER EX-"KMT WAR CRIMINALS" IN HONG KONG
TAGS: SREF, MILI, CH, HK, US, (TUAN KO-WEN), (CHOU YANG-HAO), (TSAI SHENG'SAN), (EDWARDS, R RANDLE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006